

Alice Pike Barney Studio House
2306 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-256

HABS
DC
WASH,
199-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. DC-256

ALICE PIKE BARNEY STUDIO HOUSE

HABS, DC, WASH, 199.

Address: 2306 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.
UTM: 18.322140 .4308780

Significance: This building, which includes studio and stage facilities, was designed as a private cultural center for artistic pursuits and informal entertaining. [Four-and-one-half stories. HABS]

Present Owner: Smithsonian Institution/ National Collection of Fine Arts

Present Use: Offices

Lot and Square: Square 2507, lots 4 and 5 (formerly in Block 8, "Kalorama Heights")

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Original Owner: Alice P. Barney (1901-1931) *

Original Use: Studio house

Date of Erection: 1902

Architect: Waddy B. Wood, Washington, D.C.

Builder: Charles A. Langley

Estimated cost: \$18,000.

Subsequent Owners:

Natalie Clifford Barney and Laura A. Dreyfus-Barney (1931-1963)
Smithsonian Institution (1963-)

City and Telephone Directories List:

1904-1907	Alice P. Barney
1908-1911	No listing found
1912-1914	Christian D. Hemmick
1915	John J. White
1916-1917	Christian D. Hemmick
1918-1919	Mark Requa
1920	C. F. Cramer
1921-1923	Harold Walker
1924	No listing
1925-1926	Peruvian Embassy
1927	Vacant
1928	Vivian Spencer
1929-1930	Laurence Wilder
1931	Alice P. Barney
1932-1933	D. Laura Barney
1934	William M. Cheeks
1935	Vacant
1936-1938	Columbian Legation

* Lot 4 was purchased in 1901 and lot 5 in 1903.

1939-1940	National Capital Film Laboratories, Inc.
1941	Vacant
1942-1943	Sir Vivian Gabriel
1944-1947	No listing found
1948	Natalie C. Barney
1949-1953	No listing found
1954-1961	Vacant
1962-1970	American Association of Museums
1971-1972	Smithsonian Institution

Known Plans, Drawings, Elevations, etc.:

Front elevation. Blueprint. Scale 1/4" = 1'
Filed with Permit No. 172, July 26, 1902
"Studio for Mrs. A. C. Barney
Waddy B. Wood, Architect
808 17th Street, N.W."
(see reproduction)

Floor plans of basement, first, second, third, fourth and fifth [1/2] floor.
Blue line prints. Scale 1/4" = 1'
Drawn for Smithsonian Institution

Important Old Views:

Photograph: exterior view from Sheridan Circle
The Architectural Annual, Washington, D.C., published by
The Architectural League of America, 1906.

Photograph: exterior view from Sheridan Circle
National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution
Date: before 1911

Photograph: 3rd floor studio
National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution
Date: 1904

Building Dimensions:

Stories: 4 and 1/2 plus basement
Height: 53'-0" to roof ridge
Bays: 3 bay elevation on Mass. Ave.
Widths: 33'-0" on Mass. Ave.
40'-0" at west elevation
60'-6" in depth

Site Dimensions:

60'-9" on northeast (Mass. Ave.)
122'-9" on northwest
101'-4" on southwest (Rock Creek Park)
105'-0" on southeast

Major Alterations:

In 1911 a detached garage was added at the rear of the property to the west. At that time, the decorative garden wall flanking the driveway entrance may have been constructed. At a later date, a shallow dormer was installed over the left bay on the fifth floor.

NOTE: Further reference should be made to an exhibition staged by Donald R. McClelland for the National Collection of Fine Arts at 8th and G Streets, in Washington, D. C., on February 12, 1978. Entitled "Where Shadows Live: Alice Pike Barney and Her Friends," the exhibition ran through May 21 of that year. An article by Benjamin Forgey, Washington Star Staff Writer, appeared in the Sunday edition of the Washington Star newspaper, February 12. Mr. Forgey's article was titled "Alice Pike Barney, You Were Almost Too Much for Us: an Exhibit Tells Why." HABS, 1978.

PROJECT INFORMATION

This document was prepared from records donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey by the Commission of Fine Arts, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C., and representing studies of prime, typical, diversified and sumptuous architecture erected primarily between the years 1890 and 1930, when American society and architecture were greatly influenced by the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. The material, originally organized for adaptation to the Historic American Buildings Survey format, was first published in Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Vol. 1, 1973, issued by the Commission of Fine Arts, Charles H. Atherton, Secretary; Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary; Jeffrey R. Carson, Architectural Historian; Lynda L. Smith, Historian; and J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr., Architect. Photographs were made for the Commission by Jack E. Boucher, Linwood, New Jersey; J. Alexander, Wheaton, Maryland; and the Commission of Fine Arts Staff. The material, donated December 1973, was coordinated for the HABS documentation in 1978 by Lucy Pope Wheeler, HABS Writer/Editor.

Documentation of this property could not have been achieved without the cooperation of organizations and people concerned with the Commission's study--Mr. Andrew Michaels, Director of the Buildings Management Department for the Smithsonian Institution; and Mr. Donald R. McClelland, Coordinator of the Lending Program for the National Collection of Fine Arts.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to
Alice Pike Barney Studio House
2306 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-256

HABS
DC,
WASH,
199-

PHOTOGRAPH

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240